

Message Text

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41

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 SCA-01 L-02 EB-07

FAA-00 DOTE-00 H-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 NSCE-00 NSC-05 INRE-00 /053 W

----- 090376

O P 231300Z NOV 74

FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 245

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

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BEIRUT AND BRUSSELS FOR FAA

ISLAMABAD ALSO FOR ODRP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, CASC (WOOLDRIGE, B. ART)

SUBJECT: MISSING U.S. AIRCRAFT

REF: LAHORE 1538

BEGIN SUMMARY: OFFICIAL USG INVESTIGATING TEAM CONFIRMED TO
CONGEN NOV 23 THEY ARE CONVINCED THAT AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE
THEY SURVEYED IN CHOLISTAN DESERT IS THAT OF DR. WOOLDRIGE'S
PLANE. PARTS OF AIRCRAFT THEY SAW INDICATED THAT IT WAS
OF RECENT MANUFACTURE, BASIC COLOR IS WHITE WITH
ORANGE AND GOLD TRIM (INCLUDING INTERIOR CARPETING AND SEAT).
BECAUSE OF DIFFICULT TERRAIN, TEAM WAS UNABLE TO COVER ENTIRE
AREA WHERE AIRCRAFT DEBRIS LAY (IT WAS ABOUT 10 MILES
SQUARE, IN LOCALE MAINLY CONSISTING OF SOFT SAND DUNES
AND MAY STRETCH INTO INDIA). THEY FOUND NO HUMAN REMAINS,
BUT WERE GIVEN REPORT THAT VILLAGER SAW
TWO BODIES ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO. PAK CIVIL AVIATION REPRESENTATIVE
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LAHORE WILL REPORT PRELIMINARY FINDINGS TO DIRECTOR GENERAL

CIVIL AVIATION LATE NOV 23; HE IN TURN IS EXPECTED TO INITIATE INQUIRY AND INVITE PARTICIPATION OF FAA. INVESTIGATING TEAM ENCOUNTERED NO KNOWLEDGE OF MISSING AIRCRAFT OR OF REWARD.

ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPT ADVISE WOOLDRIDGE FAMILY AND FAA, AND ADVISE WHAT FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED. END SUMMARY.

1. USG INVESTIGATING TEAM CONSISTING OF CAPT. HENRY MAUSOLF, CONGEN OFFICER THOMAS DOWLING AND USIS LOCAL ABDUR SALAAM KURESHI RETURNED TO LAHORE AFTERNOON NOV 23 AFTER HAVING MADE SURVEY OF PART OF AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE SITE IN CHOLISTAN DESERT. THEY REPORTED THAT, DUE TO DIFFICULT SANDY TERRAIN IN WHICH THEY HAD TO PROCEED ON FOOT FOR SOME 8.5 MILES, THEY WERE UNABLE TO SURVEY ENTIRE AREA IN WHICH AIRCRAFT DEBRIS SCATTERED. HOWEVER, THEY WERE ABLE TO LOCATE SEVERAL PORTIONS OF WRECKED AIRCRAFT, INCLUDING PIECES OF VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL STABILIZERS, PART OF ONE PASSENGER SEAT, INTERIOR CARPETING, AND PART OF FUEL TANK. THEY LOCATED LEFT MAIN WING AND BOTTOM HALF OF LEFT ENGINE NACELLE, PLUS DOZENS OF SMALLER FRAGMENTS OF WINDOW FRAMING, WIRING, INSULATION, VOLTAGE REGULATORS AND ENROUTE SUPPLEMENT.

2. ALL DEBRIS DISCOVERED WAS OF RECENT MANUFACTURE AND THE EXTERIOR COLOR SCHEME WAS APPARENTLY BASIC WHITE WITH ORANGE AND GOLD STRIPING. MATERIAL ON SEAT AND CARPETING IS DARK ORANGE. THESE FEATURES AND DATES MARKED ON THE DEICER BOOTS INDICATE AIRCRAFT WAS MOST CERTAINLY BEECHCRAFT B-60 OF RECENT MANUFACTURE, LEADING INVESTIGATORS TO CONCLUDE THAT WRECKAGE COME FROM AIRCRAFT BELONGING TO DR. WOOLDRIDGE, IN ABSENCE OF INFORMATION ABOUT ANY OTHER MISSING AIRCRAFT IN THIS GENERAL AREA.

3. DEBRIS WAS FOUND IN STRAIGHT LINE NEAR CAMEL TRAIN AT 28-27-30N, 71-15-20E, ABOUT 1.2 NAUTICAL MILES NORTH OF INTENDED ROUTE OF FLIGHT (G-52) TO CALCUTTA VIA NEW DELHI. CAPT. MAUSOLF OPINED THAT THIS WAS WELL WITHIN NORMAL ALLOWANCES FOR ENROUTE NAVIGATION. TEAM FIRST SURVEYED AREA VIA PAKISTAN ARMY OBSERVATION AIRCRAFT AND COULD ONLY DISTINGUISH ONE PIECE OF DEBRIS FROM AIR: IT WAS OF ONE ENGINE NACELLE. TWO PHOTOGRAPHS WERE MADE OF THIS FROM 100 FEET ACTUAL UNCLASSIFIED

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GROUND LEVEL. OTHER DEBRIS WAS TOO SMALL TO BE PHOTOGRAPHED FROM AIR. CAPT. MAUSOLF NOTED THAT AREA IS TRAVERSED BY CAMEL TRAILS AND SUGGESTED THAT WANDERING DESERT VILLAGERS MAY HAVE CARRIED OFF PORTION OF WRECKAGE OVER PAST TWO MONTHS.

4. UPON ARRIVAL AT KHANPUR, INVESTIGATORS SPOKE TO PAK MAJOR ZULFIKAR JANJUS, WHO HAD VISITED CRASH SITE NOV 20. HE SAID HE BEEN DIRECTED TO SITE BY PAK ARMY CAPT. M.M. MUFTI,

WHO WAS FIRST ARMY OFFICER TO HEAR OF WRECKAGE FROM UNNAMED DESERT VILLAGER. ACCORDING TO MAJOR JANJUA, VILLAGER FIRST STUMBLED ACROSS DEBRIS ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO AND PASSED ALONG INFORMATION TO FIRST ARMY UNIT HE HAD SEEN ABOUT ONE WEEK AGO. FYI: FOR RELEASE AT DEPT'S DISCRETION - JANJUA STATED THAT VILLAGER TOLD HIM HE HAD SEEN TWO BODIES DRESSED IN "WESTERN-STYLE" CLOTHING. VILLAGER, WHO WAS APPARENTLY FRIGHTENED BY SIGHT, DID NOT GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO HAVE GOOD LOOK AT BODIES, BUT BELIEVED ONE WAS WOMAN BECAUSE OF LONG HAIR FLOWING IN BREEZE. SECOND BODY WAS THAT OF MALE WHO WAS REPORTEDLY WEARING HEADSET. HE ALSO CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN ONE SUITCASE. JANJUA SAID THAT HE HAD SEARCHED AREA DESCRIBED BY VILLAGER, BUT HAD SEEN NO RPT NO BODIES HIMSELF. END FYI.

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 SCA-01 L-02 EB-07

FAA-00 DOTE-00 H-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 NSCE-00 NSC-05 INRE-00

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FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIAC IMMEDIATE 246

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD NIAC IMMEDIATE

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5. INVESTINGATING TEAM PROCEEDED TO CRASH SITE JEEP, BUT FOUND THEY COULD NOT APPROACH DEBRIS IN JEEPS BECAUSE OF SOFT SAND DUNES THROUGH AREA. THEY FOUND FIRST SMALL PIECE OF WRECKAGE ABOUT 250 METERS DUE EAST OF JEEPS. MORE SMALL PIECES WERE FOUND SPREAD ABOUT 100-150 METERS APART IN SAME GENERAL DIRECTION FOR ABOUT THREE MILES. ALL PIECES FOUND

IN THAT AREA WERE FROM TAIL SECTION OF AIRCRAFT. AFTER DISTANCE OF ABOUT FOUR MILES , LARGER AND MORE NUMEROUSE PIECES OF WRECKAGE WERE FOUND AT FREQUENCIES OF ABOUT 50-100 MATERS. ABOUT FIVE MILES BEYOND THERE, PORTIONS OF VERTICAL STABILIZER AND TRAILING EDGE OF MAIN WING WERE FOUND. ALL ITEMS FOUND UP TO THAT POINT INDICATED THAT AIRCRAFT HAD DISINTERGRATED IN AIR. ABOUT 1 MILE BEYOND THAT POINT, ANOTHER SECTION OF TAIL ASSEMBLY WAS FOUND AS WAS LARGER PIECE OF LEFT MAIN WING. AT THIS POINT, WHICH MAUSOLF ESTIMATED TO BE ABOUT 1.5 MILES FROM INDIAN BORDER, SEARCH PARTY HALTED BECAUSE OF APPROACHING DARK, AND RETURNED TO JEEPS, HAVING IN INTERIM FOUND BACK OF ONE OF SEATS. PERSONNEL CARRIED WHAT THEY COULD BACK UNCLASSIFIED

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TO JEEPS AND RETURNED TO KHANPUR.

6. CAPT. MAUSOLF OFFERED FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON TEAM'S DISCOVERIES: LARGEST PIECE OF AIRCRAFT FOUND WAS ABOUT 5 FEET LONG (LEFT WING). THERE WERE NO SIGNS OF FIRE AND NO SIGNS THAT PLANE HAD DISINTERGRATED UPON IMPACT. ALL ITEMS FOUND APPEARED TO HAVE STRUCK IN GROUND APPROXIMATELY WHERE THEY HIT. ALL DEBRIS APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN EXPLODED APART, WITH SOME ITEMS SHOWING EVIDENCE THAT THEY HAD BEEN DAMAGED BY OTHER PIECES PASSING THEM IN FLIGHT. CAPT. MAUSOLF CONCLUDED THAT AIRCRAFT WAS TOTALLY DEMOLISHED PRIOR TO HITTING GROUND AND THAT HEAVY PORTION OF FUSELAGE COULD PROBABLY BE FOUND FURTHER ALONG PATH INVESTIGATING TEAM COVERED ON FOOT, POSSIBLY IN INDIA.

7. MR AKHTAR, FLIGHT SAFETY OFFICER AT LAHORE AIRPORT, WAS PRESENT DURING DEBRIEFING OF TEAM AFTER ARRIVAL IN LAHORE. HE TOO NOTES AND SAID HE WOULD BRIEF GOP DIRECTOR GENERAL CIVIL AVIATION M.R. RIZVI UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN LAHORE EVENING NOV. 23. AKHTAR BELIEVED RIZVI WOULD IMMEDIATELY ORDER INQUIRY INTO CRASH UPON LEARNING FACTS OUTLINED ABOVE. MOREOVER, HE EXPECTED DGCA TO INVITE FAA TO JOIN IN INQUIRY PROCEEDINGS. HOWEVER, HE SAID HE WOULD CONFIRM LATTER PROCEDURE ONLY AFTER TALKING TO DGCA.

8. IN TALKING TO ARMY OFFICERS AND ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER IN KHANPUR, INVESTIGATING TEAM FOUND THAT THERE WAS NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF MISSING AIRCRAFT ON PART OF ANYONE IN AREA. MOREOVER, NO ONE THEY MET GAVE ANY INDICATION OF ANY KNOWLEDGE THAT REWARD HAD BEEN OFFERED FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO LOCATION AND RECOVERY OF DR. WOOLDRIDGE OR MISSING AIRCRAFT. THEY DID NOT RAISE SUBJECT WUTH ANYONE THEY MET.

9. BOTH CAPT. MAUSOLF AND MR. DOWLING HAD HIGHEST PRAISE FOR PAK ARMY OFFICERS AND MEN WITH WHOM THEY CAME IN CONTACT

AND WHO ASSISTED IN SEARCH. THEY STATE THAT ARMY PERSONNEL
COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MORE HELPFUL AND POINTED OUT THAT WITHOUT
ARMY ASSISTANCE, SEARCH WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE.

10. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPT INFORM WOOLDRIDGE FAMILY
OF ABOVE. IF ANY FURTHER ACTION IS DESIRED ON PART OF
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CONGEN, PLEASE INSTRUCT. WE WILL REPORT FURTHER ABOUT ACTION
TO BE TAKEN BY DGCA WHEN INFORMED BY AKHTAR.
SPENGLER

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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